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Approved For Release 2000/08/26 : CIA-RDP62-00680R000200160047-9

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director/Research and Reports
FROM: Assistant Director/Scientific Intelligence
SUBJECT: Request for Geographic Study of the USSR
of Areas Most Susceptible and Least
Susceptible to Attempted Concealed
Underground Nuclear Tests

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1. This memo confirms a conversation between [REDACTED] of
your office and [REDACTED] of this office 22 June 1959. 25X1A9a

2. As part of this Agency's support to current negotiations
for a controlled nuclear test moratorium, we are required to
advise the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, as well as
interested Advisory Panels of the President's Science Advisory
Committee, on the support U. S. intelligence can provide in the
detection and identification of concealed underground nuclear
tests.

3. Currently an effort is being made to determine the U. S.
policy position on the Soviet proposal that a quota of on-site
inspections be allowed each side annually to investigate
unidentified seismic events suspicious of being concealed, under-
ground nuclear explosions.

4. One obvious contribution that U. S. intelligence can make
to this determination, as well as to the subsequent administration
of any such quota system, is an evaluation of the areas in the
USSR which may tend to preclude or to facilitate attempted
concealed underground nuclear tests. Such an evaluation, for
example, would define and plot the following factors:

- a. Population density
- b. Salt domes or thick-bedded salt formations
- c. Climate (to include perma-frost areas and ground
water problems)
- d. Vast marsh areas and other areas where nuclear
test logistics may be impracticable
- e. Mining areas and deep, abandoned tunnels
- f. Deep lakes
- g. Officially closed areas
- h. Seismic and aseismic areas.

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5. We anticipate further study of this problem may reveal additional factors.

6. It is requested that a preliminary geographic presentation of such factors be prepared for use 1 July 1959, and that a more detailed study of this problem be undertaken in collaboration with this office on a long term basis. [REDACTED] of this office 25X1A9a (ext. 2717) is available to assist your Geographic Division in this matter.

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